

Bird report South Laos, Champasak
Jan de Groot
21 – 31 March 2018

Transport: Motor bike (Honda Wave 50.000 kip). Hired from Laogo Carrental in Pakse.

Accommodation: Guesthouses and hotels between 50.000 en 250.000 kip.

XE PIAN NBDC AND KIET NGONG WETLAND, MARCH 22-23

The first day I travelled to Xe Pian from Pakse.

48 kms South of Pakse, on route 13, turn left on to route 18 and after 8 kms turn right, and Kiet Ngong is in 2 kms. I stayed in the King Fisher lodge but cheaper accommodation in home stays or guesthouses in Kiet Ngong village.

The wetland was almost completely dried up. Cattle and two elephants were seen grazing. Villagers were digging fish trap ponds or emptying them to catch fish.

Kiet Ngong is one of the two Ramsar sites in Lao PDR. Lao PDR joined the international Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in 2011.

Interesting to read: IUCN base line report on Kiet Ngong wetland, 2011
<https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/10069>

Comments: Birding around and in the wetland of Kien Ngong and along the road to Phou Asa for two days.

50 species (+2 other taxa)

Cinnamon Bittern (*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*) 1
Gray Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) 2
Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*) 2
Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) X
Intermediate Egret (*Ardea intermedia*) X
Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) X
Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) X
Chinese Pond-Heron (*Ardeola bacchus*) X
Crested Serpent-Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*) 1
Eastern Marsh-Harrier (*Circus spilonotus*) 2
Pied Harrier (*Circus melanoleucos*) 3
Shikra (*Accipiter badius*) 3
Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*) 1
Pheasant-tailed Jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*) 2
Bronze-winged Jacana (*Metopidius indicus*) 1
snipe sp. (*Gallinago* sp.) 1
Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*) 3
Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*) X

Green-billed Malkoha (*Phaenicophaeus tristis*) 4
 Plaintive Cuckoo (*Cacomantis merulinus*) 2
 Asian Barred Owlet (*Glaucidium cuculoides*) X
 Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) 2
 Black-capped Kingfisher (*Halcyon pileata*) 1
 Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*) 1
 Dollarbird (*Eurystomus orientalis*) 2
 Coppersmith Barbet (*Psilopogon haemacephalus*) X
 Blue-eared Barbet (*Psilopogon duvaucelii*) X
 Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike (*Hemipus picatus*) 2
 Great Iora (*Aegithina lafresnayei*) 4
 Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*) 1
 Hair-crested Drongo (*Dicrurus hottentottus*) X
 Greater Racket-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus paradiseus*) X
 Black-naped Monarch (*Hypothymis azurea*) 1
 Large-billed Crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*) 6
 Streak-eared Bulbul (*Pycnonotus conradi*) 6
 Radde's Warbler (*Phylloscopus schwarzi*) 1
 Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*) 2
 Oriental Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus orientalis*) 1
 Common Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sutorius*) X
 Dark-necked Tailorbird (*Orthotomus atrogularis*) X
 Mountain Fulvetta (*Alcippe peracensis*) 2
 Asian Brown Flycatcher (*Muscicapa dauurica*) 2
 White-rumped Shama (*Copsychus malabaricus*) 3
 Siberian Stonechat (*Saxicola maurus*) 5
 Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) 4
 Blue-winged Leafbird (*Chloropsis cochinchinensis*) 2
 Ruby-cheeked Sunbird (*Chalcoparia singalensis*) X
 Olive-backed Sunbird (*Cinnyris jugularis*) 2
 Crimson Sunbird (*Aethopyga siparaja*) 2
 Eastern Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla tschutschensis*) X
 Richard's/Paddyfield Pipit (*Anthus richardi/rufulus*) X
 Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*) 8

Travelling south on Rt 13

Crested Serpent-Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*) 1
 Eurasian Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*) 1

DON SOM, MARCH 24-25

Following Rt 13 south, cross the bridge to Don Khong at Ban Hat. Immediately over the bridge turn south. After 2 km cross the Mekong by ferry to Ban Deua op Don Som. On Don Som I stayed on the east site of the island at Don Som River site Guesthouse in Ban Tamakhep.

Comments: Only a few paddies were planted with rice. Some locals were

fishing but most were enjoying the village festivals. I zigzagged the island by motor bike.

31 species

Little Cormorant (*Microcarbo niger*) 1
Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) X
Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) X
Chinese Pond-Heron (*Ardeola bacchus*) X
Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) 1
Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*) 1
Zebra Dove (*Geopelia striata*) 2
Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*) 2
Green-billed Malkoha (*Phaenicophaeus tristis*) 1
Asian Koel (*Eudynamys scolopaceus*) 1
Plaintive Cuckoo (*Cacomantis merulinus*) 1
Asian Barred Owlet (*Glaucidium cuculoides*) 1
Asian Palm-Swift (*Cypsiurus balasiensis*) X
Coppersmith Barbet (*Psilopogon haemacephalus*) 2
Common Iora (*Aegithina tiphia*) 2
Gray-backed Shrike (*Lanius tephronotus*) 1
Large-billed Crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*) 2
Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*) 1
Black-crested Bulbul (*Pycnonotus flaviventris*) X
Yellow-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus goiavier*) X
Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*) 2
Common Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sutorius*) X
Dark-necked Tailorbird (*Orthotomus atrogularis*) X
Asian Brown Flycatcher (*Muscicapa dauurica*) 2
Oriental Magpie-Robin (*Copsychus saularis*) 2
Siberian Stonechat (*Saxicola maurus*) 2
Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) X
Great Myna (*Acridotheres grandis*) X
Olive-backed Sunbird (*Cinnyris jugularis*) 2
Plain-backed Sparrow (*Passer flaveolus*) 2
Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) X

Don Khon, MARCH 26-27

Via de ferry connecting Don Som and Don Det and taking the French bridge to D0n Khon.

Accommodation: Pomelo Resort in Ban Hong Khon.

Comments: The trail from Ban Hong Khon via Ban Bung Kaen to Tad Khone Pa Soi was good for forest species. I found the short walk north of Bo Hu beach along the Mekong over the rocks good for Wire Tailed Swallow and Mekong Wagtail. From the resort it was possible to see the Irrawaddy dolphins.

31 species

Indian Spot-billed Duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*) 1
Little Cormorant (*Microcarbo niger*) 6
Oriental Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*) 1
Gray Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) 1
Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) X
Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) X
Chinese Pond-Heron (*Ardeola bacchus*) X
Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) 1
Small Pratincole (*Glareola lactea*) 2
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) (*Columba livia* (Feral Pigeon)) 1
Asian Koel (*Eudynamis scolopaceus*) 1
Asian Barred Owlet (*Glaucidium cuculoides*) 1
Oriental Pied-Hornbill (*Anthracoceros albirostris*) 2
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater (*Merops leschenaulti*) 2
Blue-eared Barbet (*Psilopogon duvaucelii*) 1
Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike (*Hemipus picatus*) 6
Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*) 4
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus paradiseus*) X
Black-naped Monarch (*Hypothymis azurea*) 2
Wire-tailed Swallow (*Hirundo smithii*) 12
Striated Swallow (*Cecropis striolata*) X
Black-crested Bulbul (*Pycnonotus flaviventris*) 4
Common Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sutorius*) X
Dark-necked Tailorbird (*Orthotomus atrogularis*) X
Gray-faced Tit-Babbler (*Mixornis kelleyi*) 2
Oriental Magpie-Robin (*Copsychus saularis*) 2
White-rumped Shama (*Copsychus malabaricus*) 4
Blue Rock-Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*) 1
Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) X
Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) X
White-rumped Munia (*Lonchura striata*) 2

DONG KHONG, MARCH 27-28

From Don Khon via Don Det and Don Som to Don Khong.

Accommodation: Khong View guesthouse

Comments: The channel and sand bar east of the bridge connecting Don Khong and Don San was good for waders.

17 species (+1 other taxa)

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) X
Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) X
Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) 20
Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*) 6
Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*) 17

snipe sp. (*Gallinago* sp.) 1 By the way it flew away (short direct flight)
most probably Pin-tailed Snipe
Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) 18
Small Pratincole (*Glareola lactea*) 2
Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*) 4
Zebra Dove (*Geopelia striata*) 3
Plaintive Cuckoo (*Cacomantis merulinus*) 1
Slender-billed Oriole (*Oriolus tenuirostris*) 1
Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*) 1
Black-collared Starling (*Gracupica nigricollis*) 16
Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) X
Great Myna (*Acridotheres grandis*) X
Eastern Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla tschutschensis*) 40
Plain-backed Sparrow (*Passer flaveolus*) X

PROTECTED FOREST AREA WEST OF BAN KADAN, MARCH 28

The road from Mounlapamok to Ban Kadan is almost all paved. From Ban Kadan is a good dirt road crossing the forest. Few other vehicles.

Comments: I intended to stay somewhere in this most southern part of Laos. In Ban Paksomg however was no accommodation and as the forest area looked very desolate I decided to turn back to Mounlapamok and continued to Champasak. The protected forest however looked very good for birds. It would be good to come back and spend 2 days in the forest. The species below were seen from the road crossing the forest.

6 species

Crested Serpent-Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*) 2
Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*) 1
Crested Treeswift (*Hemiprocne coronata*) 12
Blue-throated Bee-eater (*Merops viridis*) 2
Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*) 4
Pied Bushchat (*Saxicola caprata*) 1

Champassak, March 28- 29- 30

From Don Khong cross the ferry to Ban Houay Gngang on the east bank of the Mekong. From the ferry a very good dirt road brings you to Soukhouma. A sealed new road from here brings you to Champasak.

Accommodation: Anouxa guesthouse

Comments: Rainy cold day, visiting wats and the ruins of Wat Phu.

Wat Phu, Champasak

1 species

Lesser Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna javanica*) 110 ducks landed on the most northern temple reservoir and were still be seen 2 hours later

Tad Fane March 30-31

From Champasak via the ferry to Rt 13, via Rt 16 to Tad Fane.

Accommodation: Tad Fane resort

Comments: I walk the trail from Tad Fane resort to Tad Yuang and back. A lovely 1.5 hours walk with quiet some steep climbing. For birds the grounds of the Tad Fane resort proved very productive in the morning and late afternoon.

19 species

Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*) 1
Asian Barred Owlet (*Glaucidium cuculoides*) 1
Dollarbird (*Eurystomus orientalis*) 2
White-bellied Erpornis (*Erpornis zantholeuca*) 8
Large-billed Crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*) 1
Black-crested Bulbul (*Pycnonotus flaviventris*) 6
Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*) 3
Common Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sutorius*) 4
Japanese White-eye (*Zosterops japonicus*) 5
Puff-throated Babbler (*Pellorneum ruficeps*) 1
Mountain Fulvetta (*Alcippe peracensis*) 3
Silver-eared Mesia (*Leiothrix argentauris*) 6
Asian Brown Flycatcher (*Muscicapa dauurica*) 1
White-rumped Shama (*Copsychus malabaricus*) 1
Tickell's Blue Flycatcher (*Cyornis tickelliae*) 1 male
Mugimaki Flycatcher (*Ficedula mugimaki*) 1 male
Taiga Flycatcher (*Ficedula albicilla*) 1
White-throated Rock-Thrush (*Monticola gularis*) 1 male
Plain Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum minullum*) 1

Pakse April 1

From Tad Fane via Tad Lo (crowded with Lao and Thai tourists) back to Pakse. An uneventful ride through: cabbage fields, coffee plantations, cassava fields and rubber plantations and occasionally small patches of degraded forest.

In total I identified 98 species in 10 days birding!